The Sun.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1900.

Subscriptions by Mail, Postpaid.

DAILY, per Month	$0 50
DAILY, per Year	6 00
SUNDAY, per Year	2 00
DAILY AND SUNDAY, per Year	8 00
DAILY AND SUNDAY, per Month	70

Postage to foreign countries added.

THE SUN, New York City.

PARIS—Kiosque No. 12, near Grand Hotel, and Kiosque No. 10, Boulevard des Capucines.

If our friends who favor us with manuscripts for publication wish to have rejected articles returned, they must in all cases send stamps for that purpose.

Currency Reform.

In the currency bill as agreed upon by the conferees of the Senate and the House, what is known as the "endless chain" of greenback redemption, or the system of reissuing without restriction greenbacks for which gold has been paid out, is to be prohibited. Notes redeemed are to be impounded as a special fund in a newly established department of Issue and Redemption, not to be paid out to meet Government expenses, but to be issued only by the same door by which they entered, namely the door of exchange for gold.

It is an extreme precaution against a danger that can arise but very seldom. Only when the Government expenses exceed its income can there be any possibility of this endless chain. In the present and prospective state of the Federal revenue, there is no room for anxiety lest it may appear again. Nevertheless, the provision against it now in the currency bill is financially wise and valuable.

This is the one measure of currency reform which THE SUN has steadily advocated through all manifestations of the craze for greenback abolition or inflation. When it is law, in spite of the superficial incongruities and absurdities still left in our system of money, the foundation of that system will be as solid as a rock.

Populists of all groups, whether led by BRYAN or IGNATIUS DONNELLY or Calamity WELLER, will rage at this strong and open buttressing of the gold standard of value, which they are arrayed to destroy; but American common sense will applaud it and hold fast to it. It is an achievement of which the Republican party may well be proud and for which it may raise its hope to continue in control of the Government.

Polly McGrail.

POLLY MCGRAIL, of Paterson, has fought to maintain one of the first principles of civilized liberty, and won. A delicate woman with a lion's heart, she boldly claimed the American's right, than which none can be dearer, of working for whom she pleased and for what wages she desired to accept. The occasion for her struggle for this common and undeniable right was the attempt made by a labor union to prevent her enjoying it.

Threats, boycotting, and even murderous violence did not swerve her from her determination. At last she prevailed, as justice and fair play must ever prevail against conspiracy and cowardice.

We trust that the people of Paterson feel for her all the respect that she deserves. The most shining American to-day is POLLY MCGRAIL.

The Last Half Century.

To understand the true relation of the Hay-Pauncefote Treaty to the present day turn to the thrilling record of events in this country during the last fifty years.

The Civil War brought the two most vicious attacks upon the Monroe Doctrine that it ever knew, one being veiled and the other being direct and open. England steadfastly hoped and indefatigably labored to see the United States disrupted and the power broken which stood as a barrier to European aggression upon this continent. France boldly sent an army to the country south of us, Mexico, overcame the native Government and filled the throne then set up with an Austrian Emperor. While our resources were strained to the utmost to preserve the Union, the American theory of this hemisphere's political separation from Europe was assailed in the belief that the United States would never again be capable of upholding it.

Providentially we survived the strain. We sturdily rejected the proposal of France that she should unite with Russia and England to "mediate" between the Federal Government and the Confederates. The Monroe Doctrine was reasserted. The memorable letter from Secretary SEWARD to NAPOLEON III. was accepted at the French Court as evidence that we had recovered our strength, and the French army was withdrawn. MAXIMILIAN, its imperialistic creation in a sister republic, was overcome, and Mexico became American again.

If ever a nation emerged from the valley of the shadow of death to the hope of greater strength and ability to maintain a principle that had been laid down in the past as a foundation for its future greatness, it was the United States, after the sailing of Marshal BAZAINE had been succeeded by domestic peace.

After more than thirty years of peace there came the war with Spain to prove the development of our national power and to give a peculiar stimulus to the long-nurtured idea of cutting a canal through the isthmus connecting North and South America. The Oregon had not reached Key West after her tedious voyage round the Horn before the entire country was impatient to begin digging at Nicaragua, as a plain national necessity.

Yet in the face of this impressive history, so justly the cause for American pride and aspiration, and at the moment for an unprecedented stride forward in confirming the American policy, the Washington State Department announces a canal convention with England, the keynote of which is not that of enlarged American influence and security in this hemisphere, but a meek reaffirmation of an old blundering subordination of our vital claim of continental superiority, and, going beyond that even, an invitation to the powers of Europe to come and each put the stamp of its authority here upon American soil!

How can this fatuous reversal of the course of events during the last fifty years be explained? Did it arise from political blindness, or from imperfect allegiance or mere coldness to American interests? Reason is capable of imagining no other explanations. Nothing equal to the Hay-Pauncefote Treaty in practical unfriendliness to the United States has occurred since the action of England and France during the crisis of the Civil War.

The proposition that this treaty shall now be built permanently into our national and international policies is too monstrous. It cannot be accepted by the country.

Cornell University.

That the institution founded by EZRA CORNELL is entitled to the name of university in the highest sense of the word, both on the score of the scope of the studies pursued and of the breadth of territory from which its students are drawn, will be manifest to those who inspect its Register for the academical year 1899-1900. Cornell University includes besides an academic department or college proper and a graduate department open to candidates for advanced degrees, a college of law, a medical college, a college of civil engineering, the Sibley college of mechanical engineering, a college of agriculture, a college of architecture, a State college of veterinary medicine and a State college of forestry. It will be observed that every department for which a place is found in the most comprehensive of European universities, except a school of theology, has a counterpart at Cornell. The number of students in the two engineering colleges is 754; in the academic and graduate departments, 834; in the medical college, 328; in the college of law, 177, and, in the four other departments, 165. After a deduction is made for the names counted twice, we arrive at a total number of 2,240 students. Of these, more than half or 1,394, come from New York; but Pennsylvania sends 157; Ohio, 99; New Jersey, 88; Illinois, 67, and Massachusetts, 45. Thirty-six other States, besides the Territory of New Mexico and the District of Columbia, contribute to the aggregate; Canada sends 21 and thirteen foreign countries are represented in the list. Evidently, Cornell may claim to be a *studium generale*, if ever there was one. We add that the number of professors, assistant professors and teachers, exclusive of the library staff and other officers, is 359, an astonishing number when the youth of the institution is considered.

What are the requirements for admission to the college proper, to the engineering schools and to the law and medical departments? This will be at once recognized as a vital question by those who desire to gauge the values of Cornell degrees. We may begin by observing that a candidate for the degree of Bachelor of Arts at Cornell need not offer Greek or even Latin at his entrance examination. The requirements are an unusually thorough knowledge of English literature, an acquaintance with physiology and hygiene; a knowledge of English and American history, or of the history of Greece to the death of ALEXANDER, and of the history of Rome to the accession of COMMODUS, and a knowledge of plane geometry and of elementary algebra. In addition, an applicant must be prepared for examination in, first Greek and Latin; or, secondly, Latin and advanced French or advanced German; or, thirdly, in advanced French, advanced German and advanced mathematics, an alternative for advanced mathematics being a certain knowledge of physics, chemistry, botany, geology, or zoology. It follows that a young man may obtain a degree of Bachelor of Arts at Cornell and yet be totally ignorant of both of the classical languages. Under such circumstances, the degree named seems indistinguishable from that of Bachelor of Science in certain other universities.

Such being the conditions of entrance into the college proper, we are not surprised that not even a knowledge of Latin is required for admission to the schools which have in view the degrees of civil engineer and mechanical engineer. Indeed in the colleges of civil and mechanical engineering, an applicant need pass no examination at all, provided he can present a diploma issued by the Regents of the University of the State of New York, or a certificate of graduation from an approved school. We turn to the college of law, and find that one may be admitted to it who can meet the requirements for entrance into the college proper; nay, any one who can furnish a certificate from an approved high school or academy is eligible for the course of study which has in view the degree of Bachelor of Laws. As for the medical school, it appears that an applicant for admission need only file with the executive officer of the faculty a Regents' medical student's certificate, which is granted as a result of examinations, or on evidence of four years' satisfactory high school work or its equivalent.

On the whole, we are constrained to say that it is easier to enter the college proper, or the law and medical schools of Cornell University than it is to gain admission to the corresponding departments in any other distinguished seat of the higher learning in the Eastern States. We should add that, after admission to the college proper, there are no prescribed courses of instruction, but a freshman's range of choice is confined within a definite list of studies and courses. Juniors and seniors, however, are allowed, with the consent of the faculty, to elect studies in other departments of the university, which shall count toward graduation in the college proper, but the sum total of hours thus elected must not exceed nine hours per week in any term. It is, of course, understood that, if a candidate for the A. B. degree offers Latin and Greek for admission, and elects to pursue the same studies thereafter, he will find at Cornell every facility for the prosecution of them with success. Thus, in Greek, the work of the freshman year is directed toward the cultivation of the ability of reading at sight, while that of the sophomore year aims at giving the student some acquaintance with the scope and meaning of Greek literature and with the characteristics of Greek thought. In Latin, it is satisfactory to learn that the purpose of the instructors is to teach students to read Latin understandingly and rapidly without translating, which was, of course, an aptitude acquired in mediæval times when Latin was still a spoken tongue as well as the universal medium of written communication. Those who gain the power of reading Latin as a Roman would are helped to secure a large acquaintance with Latin literature, with Roman history and with Roman private life.

Let us look next at the aid given to indigent, but deserving students. We note in the first place that, for graduates, there are thirteen university fellowships, besides two fellowships in modern history and in political and social science, three in philosophy, two in political economy, two in Greek and Latin and one in American history; the annual value of these fellowships is from $500 to $600. There are also seventeen graduate scholarships, each having the annual value of $300. What are known as honorary fellowships are open only to persons already holding the degree of Doctor of Philosophy; they carry no emoluments, but exempt from tuition fees. As regards the assistance offered to undergraduates, the Superintendent of Public Instruction is by law empowered to award annually a number of free scholarships in Cornell University, equal to the number of Assembly districts in the State. These scholarships entitle the holder to free tuition for four years. There are also thirty-six undergraduate scholarships established by the university, each giving an annual income of $200. The F. W. Padgham scholarship is worth $150, and the Alumnæ scholarship, which, as its name implies, is awarded to a young woman, is worth $100 a year. There are, likewise, a good many prizes, ranging in value from twenty-five to one hundred dollars.

We should point out, finally, that the annual tuition fee in the academic and scientific departments, in the law school and in the forestry and veterinary schools is $100; the fee in the medical college is half as large again. There are incidental fees of $5 per term in the mechanical engineering school and in the agricultural school to cover the cost of materials used. Altogether, the yearly expenses of a student at Cornell University are computed at from three hundred to five hundred dollars, but it probably would be difficult to bring them within the first-named figure.

Raleigh's Lost Colony.

It is asserted by Mr. BELLAMY, a Representative in Congress from one of the eastern districts of North Carolina, that among his constituents are descendants of the colony founded by Sir WALTER RALEIGH on Roanoke Island in 1587, a colony of which all traces are supposed generally to have been lost. If the assertion could be supported by conclusive proof it would solve one of the most perplexing problems connected with early American history, a problem which both BANCROFT and HILDRETH have regarded as insoluble.

Before noting the grounds on which Mr. BELLAMY's averment is based, let us recall the circumstances under which the Roanoke settlement was made. After the death of Sir HUMPHREY GILBERT on his return from a second voyage to America, the scheme of colonization was taken up by his half-brother, WALTER RALEIGH, who, in 1584, obtained from Queen ELIZABETH a patent constituting him a Lord Proprietary over an extensive region on the Atlantic coast of North America. In the same year he despatched a small exploring expedition which visited Roanoke Island and made a flattering report of the resources of the neighboring country. Two natives volunteered to accompany this expedition on its return to England, and one of them, named MANTEO, became subsequently useful as an interpreter. In the following year RALEIGH, having been knighted and having had his patent confirmed by act of Parliament, fitted out seven vessels carrying 108 colonists, all adult males, to the shores of the land which, although then christened Virginia, was subsequently to be known as Carolina. In this expedition took part more than one man of merit who is still unforgotten. The little fleet was commanded by Sir RICHARD GRENVILLE, and he was accompanied by CAVENDISH, who, soon after, circumnavigated the globe; by HARIOT, the inventor of the system of notation in modern algebra, and the historian of the expedition; by WHITE, a painter, who took home sketches of the natives and of their modes of life, and by RALPH LANE, afterward knighted and at this time designated as Governor of the colony. This attempt to establish a settlement was unsuccessful; in 1586, the colonists prevailed upon Sir FRANCIS DRAKE, who anchored off Roanoke Inlet, when homeward bound from the West Indies, to take them back to England. Soon after their departure, Sir RICHARD GRENVILLE appeared with supplies, and unwilling that the English should lose possession of the country, left fifteen men on Roanoke Island.

Undismayed by the losses thus far incurred, Sir WALTER RALEIGH persisted in his determination to plant an agricultural State in the New World. To that end he granted a charter for a settlement and a municipal government for "the City of Raleigh;" appointed JOHN WHITE its Governor, and to him, with eleven assistants, intrusted the administration of the colony. In July of 1587 the third, or rather, if we count GRENVILLE's second voyage, the fourth, expedition reached the coast of North Carolina and hastened to the isle of Roanoke to search for the handful of men whom GRENVILLE had left there as a garrison. The fort built by LANE, Governor of the first abortive colony, was in ruins and not a vestige of surviving life appeared. According to information secured by MANTEO, the Indian interpreter, the fifteen men left by GRENVILLE had been slain by some of the neighboring Indians. On the site, however, of the ruined fort, which had been built at the northern extremity of the island, the foundations of the city of Raleigh were laid. From the outset, the new settlement was much harassed by the savages, who had been rendered hostile by acts of violence committed by LANE and GRENVILLE. The mother and the kindred of MANTEO, the interpreter, nevertheless welcomed the English to the island of Croatan, and MANTEO, himself, after receiving Christian baptism, was by RALEIGH's command invested with the rank of Baron, as the Lord of Roanoke. With a returning ship, WHITE, the Governor, on Aug. 27, 1587, embarked for England to seek reënforcements and supplies; nine days before his departure his daughter, ELEANOR DARE, the wife of one of his assistants, gave birth to a female child, the first offspring of English parents born on the soil of the United States. The colony which WHITE left behind him was composed of eighty-nine men, seventeen women and a certain number of children, computed by BANCROFT at two, and by HILDRETH at eleven.

When WHITE reached England, he found its attention absorbed by threats of an invasion from Spain. RALEIGH managed, however, to fit out WHITE with two ships, but, stopping to cruise for Spanish prizes, one of these vessels was itself boarded and rifled, and both were compelled to return. Other vessels prepared for the same purpose were pressed into the public service for the Spanish Armada was at hand. After all dread of invasion was over, RALEIGH made strenuous efforts to relieve his colonists, and, being himself impoverished, made an assignment under his patent to a company. Even then, some delay occurred in sending out assistance, and it was not until the autumn of 1590 that three vessels, laden with supplies and having WHITE on board, reached the Carolina coast. Not one of the colonists who had been left on Roanoke Island three years before was discoverable anywhere. The site of the settlement was still enclosed by a strong palisade, but a number of articles, broken and scattered, suggested the idea of violence and plunder. From the fact that the word "Croatan" was found carved on a tree, it was inferred that the colonists, or some of them, might have gone to an island of that name in the neighborhood. But before search could be made a storm arose and the masters of the vessels, afraid to remain longer on so dangerous a coast, set sail for England. Nothing afterward was ever heard of the unfortunate colony. RALEIGH himself long cherished the hope of discovering some traces of their existence, and no fewer than five times, it is said, sent at his own charge to search for his liegemen of the Roanoke Colony.

Long ago, the conjecture was ventured that the English settlers on the isle of Roanoke, finding themselves deserted by their countrymen, accepted hospitable adoption into a tribe of Hatteras Indians, perhaps the kinsmen of MANTEO, the interpreter, who inhabited Croatan Island. According to Mr. BELLAMY the conjecture is well founded. He finds evidence of the adoption in the fact that the Croatan Indians, who may be met with in three or four of the eastern counties of North Carolina, have blue eyes, although their other physical characteristics are those of the aborigines. Many of them, it seems, bear English names, such as SAMPSON, BERRY and WILKINSON, which names are said to have been in the tribe for generations. We are also told that their ancestors could read from books, and Mr. BELLAMY assures us that they evince a capacity and an eagerness for education that suggests the infusion of white blood. The intermixture of white blood, however, could be accounted for without the assumption that it was derived from survivors of the Raleigh Colony. From the foundation of Jamestown in 1607 up to the creation of the colony of Carolina in 1663-65, there is known to have been a certain overflow from Virginia across what afterward became the North Carolina border. This overflow was made up largely, if not wholly, of outlaws and fugitive indenture servants; and that emigrants of this kind would, for their own safety, seek adoption into Indian tribes and intermarry with the native women is a reasonable hypothesis.

Upon this theory all the facts adduced by Mr. BELLAMY are explicable, and it is hard to believe that survivors of the Raleigh Colony, if there were any, could not have made known their existence to their fellow countrymen who were not very distant after the settlement of Jamestown. We are not aware that any reference to the existence of such survivors of Raleigh's Colony has ever been found in the records of the Virginia settlements during the first half century following their establishment. It is possible, however, that no exhaustive search of the early Virginia or North Carolina records has been made with this particular inquiry in view, and the curious data brought to our notice by Mr. BELLAMY would justify a careful examination of the subject by trained scientific investigators.

The Missouri Decision as to the Department Store Tax.

The Supreme Court of Missouri is the latest judicial tribunal to sit hard upon socialistic legislation enacted in defiance of justice. Nothing has served during the past two years to inspire greater confidence in the permanence of our institutions and the ability of the American people to govern themselves wisely than the recent series of decisions in Territorial, State and Federal courts nullifying the attempts of legislative bodies to destroy business and property.

The case before the Supreme Court of Missouri was what was known as the Department Store law of the State, which was enacted in May of last year. It represented the endeavor of the Missouri Legislature to wipe out department stores, such enterprises being condemned as monopolistic and harmful. It divided merchandise into seventy-three groups or classes and provided that no person or corporation should sell at retail any more than one of these several groups or classes without having first obtained a license so to do. The application of the act was limited to cities of 50,000 inhabitants. License Commissioners were established, with power to fix the license fees at not less than $300 or more than $500 for each class or group specified. Of this fee two-thirds was to go into the city treasury and one-third into the State treasury.

A merchant in the city of St. Joseph declined to pay the license fee, and the Circuit Court of the State, from which he first sought aid, sustained his refusal and issued a mandamus compelling the Commissioners to give a license to him. The Supreme Court, to which the State appealed the case, upheld the Circuit Court in every particular. The lawyers for the State maintained, to begin with, that the measure was of a police character. But the Court pointed out that the law nowhere attempted to protect any public interest or guard against any public wrong. It showed upon its face that regulation was not its purpose, and that restriction in the interests of a portion of the community was the real end in view. The following clause from the Court's decision ought to be placarded in the Legislature of every Western State:

"In order to sustain legislation of the character of the act in question as a police measure, the Court must be able to see that its object to some degree tends toward the prevention of some offence or manifest evil, or has for its aim the preservation of the public health, morals, safety or welfare. If no such object is discernible, but the mere guise and masquerade of public control, 'to regulate business and trade, &c.' is adopted, that the liberty and property rights of the citizens may be invaded, the court will strike down the act as unwarranted. Mere legislative assumption of the right to direct and indirect the channel and course into which the private energies of the citizen shall flow, or the attempt to abridge or hamper his right to pursue any lawful calling or avocation which he may choose without unreasonable regulation or molestation, have ever been condemned in all free governments."

The Court further declared that the Department Store law plainly violated the provisions contained in the Constitution of Missouri regarding the power of the Legislature to enforce taxation for public purposes, and that it was vitally defective in that it made a great irregularity of taxation possible under it. While the act provided that the license fee collected should be the same in each city, it did not provide that the tax in all cities should be the same; that is, it left the License Commissioners in Kansas City, for instance, at liberty to impose one tax and the Commissioners in St. Louis to impose another, all of which was clearly unconstitutional. Under the law the business of one city might be ruined, while that of another city would be correspondingly benefited. Many other defects of the law were in obvious conflict with the Constitutional limitations of uniformity and clear definition.

The Judges of the Supreme Court, however, stated that the chief objection to the law was that it attempted to deprive citizens of their property without due process of law. Such, certainly, was the case when any particular person or class of the community was singled out for the imposition of restraints or burdens not imposed upon all of the class or by the community at large. While the Legislature had the right to lay taxes that might become very oppressive, it could not create "flat classes," to whom alone special legislation should be applicable. The arbitrary bestowal upon certain persons and corporations in certain cities of licenses to sell merchandise was, the Court held, intolerable and was simply "classification run wild."

All of the Judges of the Supreme Court of Missouri concurred in this flatfooted and in every way gratifying decision.

Woman Against Woman.

The advocates of woman suffrage are now encountering more than ever before a form of opposition against which it is hardest to contend. The willingness of men to extend the suffrage to women would have been made manifest long ago in practical measures granting them the privilege if it had not been for the stout resistance by women themselves, and the success of those feminine opponents in the past has emboldened them now to redouble their efforts whenever the project is waged by their suffrage sisters on Congress or the Legislatures of States.

As a consequence of such feminine opposition, the House of the Massachusetts Legislature, on Tuesday, rejected a bill for municipal woman suffrage by the great majority of 124 to 32. Two other women suffrage bills now before that Legislature, one for general and the other for married women's suffrage, it may be assumed will share the same fate, for the organized feminine opposition to them all has been stronger and more persistent than ever before. The same is true with regard to the proposition as made to Congress.

Obviously so long as the great majority of women cry out against the imposition of such a burden on them men will not disregard their wishes, and every attempt of the woman suffragists to accomplish their purpose has made it manifest in all the other States that there is such a majority against them. Instead, therefore, of continuing to bring to bear their influence on Legislatures it has become necessary for them to turn all their energies on women themselves in order, if possible, to educate their sisters at least to toleration of the franchise, though it cannot be denied that, so far, many years of agitation have rather increased than overcome it.

Hereditary bondsmen! know ye not,
Who would be free, themselves must strike the blow?

The Best "Man."

From time to time THE SUN has presented the arguments that chanced to point to this or that individual as the most remarkable "man" among men. JOHN L. SULLIVAN was a wonderful man. So was JACK DEMPSEY, or GEORGE DIXON, or, before them, THOMAS SAYERS. BARCLAY of Ury was a wonderful man. LITTLEWOOD, who holds the record for six days' going as one pleases, belonged to the same class. Capt. WEBB was another. So is SANDOW. The list of physical marvels is long and extremely varied. But last Friday night there appeared in New York an aspirant for the very top place of all among them in the person of JOSEPH WALCOTT.

This 5 feet 1½ inches of length and 140 pounds of weight of negro outboxed JOSEPH CHOYNSKI, a Polish Jew, who has nearly reached the very first class among heavyweights. CHOYNSKI is but a little short of 170 pounds in weight and not far from 6 feet tall, a man of beautiful physical form and quality, a most accomplished boxer, and, as a fighter, as game as he is practised. But the little knot of African-ism that faced him took his powerful blows as though it was a stone without senses, and in return rained blows on poor CHOYNSKI with such crushing vigor and frightening rapidity that in less than one-third of the time allowed for the contest the larger man was utterly beaten.

When CHARLES MITCHELL, the British heavyweight, an artist of great skill and power, first came to this country some years ago, the lightweight BILLY EDWARDS thought that his own unusual ability to hit and great spryness on foot would enable him to beat MITCHELL; and so the match was made. In that case it took but a few moments for the bulldog to eat the terrier. WALCOTT was scarcely bigger compared to CHOYNSKI than EDWARDS was in comparison with MITCHELL; yet in WALCOTT's affair the terrier ate the bulldog. The little man won overwhelmingly.

As a human being of metallic dulness of the nerves as to pain or shock, yet of the very highest nervous organization as to muscular strength, and keen intelligence in the use of it, WALCOTT is an extremely interesting study.

A single-headed commission, with the Commissioner a man of executive ability and acquainted with forest land-titles rather than a forestry expert; the repeal of the prohibition in the Constitution to cut down the trees and the substitution of a practical system of dealing with the State's forest lands; the preparation of adequate maps and descriptions of the State forests, and the acquisition by the State of the small holdings enclosed within the boundaries of the State preserve—such are the immediate measures desirable for the effective protection of the Adirondack forest. This is the expert opinion of Mr. GIFFORD PINCHOT, a leading authority on forestry in the United States, whose report to Governor ROOSEVELT, printed in another column, merits careful attention.

The contract for the Rapid Transit tunnel has been signed, and Mr. JOHN B. MCDONALD, contractor, and Mr. AUGUST BELMONT, capitalist, can divide between themselves in just proportion the credit due for the great pertinacity, daring, persuasiveness and force required for carrying their enterprise through its recent extremely critical stage.

The dog has had his week and has passed from the public vision. The exhibition of the Westminster Kennel Club, just concluded with more than 1,080 competitors filling Madison Square Garden with their clamor, has been the most successful bench show on record in this city. From the little ornamental pet dogs to the sagacious and hard-working hunters, exhibited in pack, there was no class that did not delight the eye of the dog fancier. Almost everywhere the home-bred animals were to the fore in the awards. Mr. MARPLES, a visiting British dog expert, expresses his belief that in many classes the American-bred dogs are the equals or superiors of their English cousins. Our cocker and field spaniels he considers better than the same classes on the other side; also our beagles despite the long and particular attention paid to the breeding of this species by John Bull. Our terriers he ranks lower than the British breeds, but our pointers and setters he places on an equality with them. In general impression Mr. MARPLES declares that the show just ended surpassed any bench show in England and pronounces it "the grandest spectacle in the realm of dogdom."

For many years American dog fanciers have looked to England for types of the best breeds. Now, with the increasing interest of all classes of people in high-class dogs, as exemplified by the record-breaking attendance at the show, it seems probable that the American dog will have his day. That there will be, as an outcome of the recent exhibition, an emigration of some of our best dogs to compete on the British benches is already promised.

IN SOUTH AFRICA.

London reports from Paardeberg only come down to Thursday, and though no doubt the British War Office is kept fully informed of what is passing, the British public has to be satisfied with all sorts of speculative rumors from dubious sources. Had Gen. Cronje, with any considerable number of his men, surrendered or been captured, it is quite certain no time would have been lost in giving such welcome news the widest publicity. In the absence, therefore, of any definite and authentic information to the contrary, it can be assumed that the Boers who have been so often reported annihilated or captured are still holding their own, if they have not, as a Berlin despatch asserts, succeeded in escaping from the cordon of British troops by which they had been surrounded.

There is still, however, some difficulty in arriving at a clear idea of the situation. According to an official Boer report issued on Wednesday, the Boers at Petrusberg were under Commandant De Wet; those at the Modder River under Commandant Frontemann, a new name; and though Gen. Cronje reported his loss in the Tuesday's fighting no mention was made of the point from which he sent his message. Frontemann, after having been surrounded by the British for five days, cut his way out and joined DeWet on Tuesday, leaving it to be inferred that Gen. Cronje was still within the British cordon. The descriptions leave it doubtful whether there are two Boer positions only or three. At Petrusberg the Boers seem to have prepared a strongly intrenched position, and a junction of Transvaal and Free State forces is said to have been effected.

A despatch from the British side at Paardeberg dated yesterday, states that 2,000 Boers were reported to be operating to the north of that place, which would imply that some attempt on Lord Roberts's communications was in contemplation, or that a feint was being made to draw off part of the beleaguering cordon so as to give those inclosed in it a chance to break out and join them. But the important point as regards the Boers is that Gen. Cronje's resistance has gained time and enabled a considerable concentration to take place, so restoring the situation to more equal conditions. Meantime the British are feeling the effects of being at a distance from their railway line base of supplies. For the first time, also, we hear of a train carrying troops to the front being intentionally derailed. This occurred yesterday, only fifteen miles from Cape Town through the removal of several lengths of rail by, it is supposed, pro-Boer sympathizers.

In Natal Gen. Buller seems to be making strenuous efforts to push his way through to Ladysmith, but so far unsuccessfully and with considerable loss. According to the War Office announcement Gen. Buller found it impossible to send in complete lists of killed and wounded, owing to the continuous fighting. Whatever preparations, therefore, the Boers may have made for the eventual abandonment of the investment of Ladysmith in case of necessity, they are showing no immediate intention of permitting Gen. Buller to attain his object without fighting, and the loss of officers alone on Thursday is evidence of the tenacity with which they are holding to their positions between the Tugela and the beleaguered town. Gen. Schalck-Burger, who is now in command of the Boer forces at Ladysmith, has every reason for detaining the relieving force on the banks of the Tugela as long as possible in consequence of the turn of events in the west.

There has been some fighting near Arundel, between the Boers under Gen. Delarey and the British under Gen. Clements, in which, a Pretoria despatch says, the British were eventually repulsed. From Dordrecht it is reported that the Colonial Boers who had joined the invading Free Staters have opened negotiations with Gen. Brabant with a view to submission. Sir Alfred Milner, it is said, is offering lenient terms. The news from Mafeking refutes the story of its relief, but gives the curious information that the Boers had formed four regiments of natives to keep up the blockade, while their forces opposing Col. Plumer at Gaberones had been reënforced from Mafeking. This employment of natives by the Boers is probably the reply to Col. Plumer's employment of Khama's Bamangwato regiments against them two months ago.

THE SUN correspondent with Lord Roberts sends an interesting account of the pursuit and surrounding of Gen. Cronje's force.

The Full Case of Puerto Rico.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* From the viewpoint of "power" instead of "justice" there is no room for legal doubt that Puerto Rico is not within the Constitutional provision as to uniformity of taxation which applies only to fully organized "States."

This is a representative, not a popular Government, and the Congress, as the representative of the people, has plenary power over all the territorial acquisitions within the sovereignty of the United States. It alone can admit a new acquisition either to Territoryhood or Statehood; it alone can determine its status with reference to any or all of the provisions of the Constitution.

But there is nothing obligatory upon the Congress to apply and strictly enforce all of its powers. Some only may be used without derogation of the others. The privileges within the gift of the Congress, one or more, can be given from time to time, leaving the others to be given as may seem wise and right.

A broad view seems to show that now is a proper time for the Congress to give to Puerto Rico the privilege of free trade with the "States."

Such a gracious gift in no way binds the Congress to give the other privileges within its power, at the same time, or to other territory.

Compared with the notion of treating Puerto Rico with the wisest liberality—a liberality based upon justice—the other notion that "protection" may be weakened is trivial.

To those who are mere politicians I would suggest the lower argument, that a harsh exercise of "power" in the case of Puerto Rico means harm to the Administration and help to Bryanism. JOSEPH CULBERTSON CLAYTON.

FEB. 24.

Extend the Coastwise Regulations to the Philippines.

From the St. Paul Daily Globe.

In twenty years under a wise administration of our opportunities in the Philippines, Manila should become as important an outpost of American trade as Chicago was twenty years since. If some Senator should prove as great as his opportunity, Congress will at the present session extend the coastwise regulations to the ships doing business at the Philippine ports. This would practically exclude all but American vessels from the trade between our ports and those of the islands. This is the first important step to be taken. That it is a step that will go further to promote the building of new ships than even a subsidy bill. The time will bring the San Francisco merchant within 600 water miles of Hong Kong and into the heart of the Asiatic and Oceanic trade. That will make of Manila an American entrepot for the sale and advertisement of American wares and bring buyers from all parts of not only the archipelago that lies between the Indian and Pacific oceans, but from all the coasts of India, China and Australia.

Scribner's Magazine for March contains the second of Mr. Whigham's letters from the front; it describes the fighting at Gras Pan, Modder River and Belmont. Mr. Barrie's "Tommy and Grizel" and Mr. Roosevelt's "Oliver Cromwell" are continued interestingly. Mrs. Wharton begins a short novel which will end next month. There are three good short stories, a textural rivulet describing New York by night, with meadows of night-time photographs, and good illustrations and comment and poems.

RAISING CATTLE ON THE CONGO.

Cattle Have Been Acclimated, but Horses Have Proved a Failure.

One cause of the large mortality among white men, in the first ten years of pioneering on the Congo, was their dependence upon preserved foods. In the past few years the percentage of mortality has decreased one half and the fact that fresh beef is now an available food resource has helped to diminish the death rate. The Company of Congo Products, organized in 1889, has given most of its attention to cattle raising and has proven that the industry may be profitably conducted. It had been predicted that the experiment would fail because there are no native cattle except in the extreme south of the Congo basin.

The company's herds now number over 4,000 head of cattle, all raised in the country, and both beef on the hoof and milch cows are being sold at all the stations on the lower Congo. In the experimental stage of the work breeding cattle were imported from a number of countries and the best results have been obtained from the fine animals of the Mossamedes plateau in Angola. They do well on the Congo. The company is increasing its herds as fast as possible and expects to extend the industry far up the river.

Horse raising, on the other hand, does not promise remunerative results and the company has gone out of the business. Experiments were made for a number of years, particularly with the small horses of the Canary Islands, but they have not thrived and are peculiarly liable, on the Congo, to foot diseases.

The Keeley Cure.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Your article on Keeley and his gold cure is wrong, in so far as saying the cure is a mental delusion, accomplished only by the operation of the mind upon the body. As a rule (to which, of course, there are exceptions), when a man becomes a drunkard, not only the mind, but the body also suffers. Relieving the body relieves the mind. To a hard drinker, it is impossible to leave off drink without some stimulant to supply the required tonic to the system. As well might one tell a man with a broken leg to bring his mind to bear upon the broken member, make himself believe that the broken leg is imagination and get up and walk, as to tell a man that he can leave off drinking by sheer will power.

Mind you, I am speaking generally, and have no doubt there are certain men who have and can do it through the will only, as instance John B. Gough, who in a week's time mastered the habit, but only to yield to the terrible appetite soon after. But even he, before finally conquering, was obliged to resort to a tonic. I speak thus to show the necessity of a tonic.

Coming back to the Keeley cure, what do we find? Why, a stimulant whose constituent parts are those very drugs that supply the necessary tonic, while the system is being strengthened, which, being accomplished, the patient never thinks of drinking, because his system has been fortified, and, this being accomplished, he has no need of drink. Perhaps you are not aware that a mixture composed of opium, strychnine, belladonna digitalis, hyoscyamine and bromide, taken in small doses under the direction of a physician, will cure the drink habit; and something like this is the famous Gold cure. ALEXANDER DRAKE.

PASSAIC, Feb. 23.

Would Turn Erie Canal Into a Railroad.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The idea of expending sixty-two millions more upon the Erie Canal is very, very repugnant to the taxpayers. The taxes were appreciably increased by the nine million expenditures, and the canal did not seem at all improved by it. We think that the canal has outlived the days of its usefulness, and should conform to this age of progress; that the water should be drawn from it, and it should be converted into a many tracked railroad, built, equipped, and run by the general Government, and the traffic rates regulated by the Government as is successfully done on the Continent. Even railroad kings should not exist in this great Republic entirely unrestrained, and the poor old Erie Canal, which can carry freight only seven or eight months in the year, cannot successfully compete with the great Vanderbilt system.

Is it not time that the general Government stretched out its paternal and restraining hand for the good of the greatest number?

PORT GIBSON, N. Y., Feb. 12. C. L. G.

Church Attendance.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* It is my opinion that more people attend church now, in proportion to population, than ever before. This applies strongly to the young men, who not only go in larger numbers, but who do more when they get there, than the young man of fifty years ago ever dreamed of.

Take this community. Fifty years ago the old and young men brought the women to church, and while the women worshipped, the men, young and old, hung around the village tavern, while a majority engaged in horse racing right in front of the Dutch Reformed Church. This was the rule, I am told, all over the country. Much more could be said, but I think this will suffice to show our improvement in church going, and instead of ringing the old charge, men should be praised for their loyalty to their church. A. D.

PASSAIC, Feb. 28.

Spiritualist Approval of Prof. Hyslop and Mrs. Piper.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* If all investigators and mediums were as thorough, sound and honest as Prof. Hyslop and Mrs. Piper, the grand truths of spiritualism would advance more rapidly and would be a blessing to the world. Some people are so extremely logical they are illogical and go deeply into absurdities in trying to disprove what they don't understand.

We want more honest investigators who are after the truth and nothing but the truth. I think the best place to investigate is in the home circle, as in that way we get rid of the frauds.

GENESEO, Feb. 20. MRS. WILLIAM COVERDALE.

A Grave Doubt.

There's a colony of bachelor maids in a flat uptown, and while they have during the six months of their existence as such been enthusiastic over their condition of freedom, one of them has paused, as it were, to reflect. She has not said anything, but she has kept up a dickens of a thinking, and the other day one of her compatriots discovered her in a brown study.

"Hello!" she exclaimed after the manner of bachelor maids, "you seem to have a weight on your mind."

"I have," was the rejoinder.

"Anything serious?"

"It is to me."

"What is it? I suppose you can tell me, can't you?"

"Certainly. I was thinking how long it would take for a bachelor maid to become an old-maid maid. Have you any idea?"

"Um—er," hesitated the other girl, "well, no, I haven't. I never quite thought of it in that way before."

At present that particular colony of "b. ms" is more or less perturbed in mind.

Hospital Ships Not Needed for South Africa

From the report of the Lancet's own correspondent.

I hope that in the next great war we have in a decent climate so much money will not be spent on providing costly hospital ships, for although they are undoubtedly good in theory I cannot myself see where they come in in a war like the present when we have large and fast transports to convey sick and wounded to Netley. For this reason: The majority of patients who are sent home from this country are convalescent and do not require the elaborate arrangements which exist on board the hospital ships. The climate here is so good that there is absolutely no reason to send any one to England till his wound have practically healed. I cannot myself see the necessity of equipping ships with exceedingly expensive fittings, operating rooms, and X-ray chambers, when the chances are that all the patients which they are likely to take home will have been convalescent some weeks before they embark.

WYNBERG, Jan. 17.

A Silver Tongue to Go With Bryan's.

From the Wilmington Times.

While our Democratic friends are casting about for a suitable running mate for William J. Bryan they will make a mistake if they fail to consider the eminent qualifications of Mr Bryan's Vermont escort and right hand man, R. S. Childs of Brattleboro. Mr. Bryan is called the silver-tongued orator of the Platte; Mr. Childs is the silver tongued orator of Vermont, and has no equal in these regions.

Link, the Hunter.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Link Frittery is a noted coon hunter in this part of Orange county.

HIGHLAND FALLS, Feb. 28. R. S. BULDER.